

## **Minutes of the Public Works Committee September 29, 2011**

Chair David Swan called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

**Committee Members Present:** County Board Supervisors David Swan (Chair), Walter Kolb, Pauline Jaske, Tom Schellinger, Daniel Draeger, Peter Gundrum. **Absent:** Supervisor Pamela Meyer.

**Also Present:** County Board Chief of Staff Mark Mader, Legislative Associate Karen Phillips, Public Works Director Allison Bussler, Business Manager Betsy Forrest, Waukesha Metro Transit Director Robert Johnson and Director of Administration Kari Bloedow, Senior Financial Analyst Clara Daniels, Architectural Services Manager Dennis Cerreta, Highway Operations Manager Peter Chladil, Buildings Operations Manager Mark Keckeisen, Fleet Manager Bob Rauchle, Programs and Projects Analyst Kurt Stanich, Engineering Services Manager Gary Evans, Wisconsin Coach Lines President Mike Pjevach and Vice President Tom Dieckelman, Rodell Singert.

### **Future Meeting Date**

- October 13, 2011

Jaske arrived at 8:33 a.m. and Gundrum arrived at 8:35 a.m.

### **Discuss and Consider the 2012 Operating Budget for Public Works**

Bussler and staff were present to review the 2012 County Executive budget for the Department of Public Works. The overall budget reflects a decrease in both revenues and expenditures and a reduction of 8.5 full-time employee (FTE) positions. Most notable this year is the significant cut in State General Transportation Aid (GTA) of \$648,000. Although the County has a policy of not making up for State cuts, an exception is requested in this proposed budget; fund balance of \$405,000 is being used in 2012 to partially offset the reduction of these revenues. There is a decrease of over \$112,000 in the Routine Maintenance Agreement (RMA) with the State for the maintenance of State roads. Staffing positions eliminated include five in Housekeeping (two through attrition and three layoffs), resulting in an almost 40% reduction of Housekeeping staff. Other staffing cuts include shop supervisor (1), patrol worker (2), and mechanic (.50) FTE positions. Strategies have been implemented in an effort to reduce overtime costs, made possible through the elimination of binding arbitration. Additional cost savings are realized through employee pension contributions, thereby reducing the County's share of these costs.

Each of the 22 departmental strategic outcomes and objectives for 2012 were reviewed. Regarding the van pool program (objective 15), Bussler explained that despite initial interest in the program, no riders have signed up as of yet. Schellinger asked how much more time would be wasted on a program that has gotten no results. Bussler stated that an exit plan has not been identified, nor a timeframe. An option would be to sell the vans and give the money back to the federal government.

(Review of the remainder of the Public Works budget was deferred until after review of Transit Services)

### **Discuss and Consider the 2012 Operating Budget for Public Works – Transit Services**

Bussler, Bloedow, Johnson and Forrest were present to discuss the Public Works – Transit Services 2012 proposed budget. The 2012 budget includes a modest increase in tax levy of about \$25,000. Fund balance of \$90,000 is budgeted for expenses related to fuel adjustment clauses in vendor contracts. No fare increases are planned for 2012; however, some service cuts will be implemented. Route 901 changes from a traditional fixed-route commuter service, operating all day, to a peak service commuter route. The

route will operate at peak times, primarily at the beginning and end of the work day. The change in service will affect University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) access. A public hearing regarding Route 901 will be held in the near future. Committee members will be informed of the date and time once determined.

Swan and Schellinger voiced their support for finding a way to continue bus service to UWM.

Johnson briefly covered other minor route scheduling changes affecting Routes 1, 10 and 79.

MOTION: Jaske moved, second by Schellinger, to tentatively approve the 2012 operating budget for Public Works – Transit Services. Motion carried 6-0.

Bussler thanked Waukesha Metro Transit and Waukesha Coach Lines for their partnership in providing quality transit service in Waukesha County.

**Discuss and Consider the 2012 Operating Budget for Public Works (continued)**

Bussler continued the review of the 2012 operating budget for Public Works General Fund as outlined in the budget book. During the Transportation Fund review, Chladil gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Department of Public Works/Highway Operations to demonstrate the consequences of several different staffing reduction scenarios and resulting levels of service during snowplowing/salting operations.

Gundrum commented that he wanted to see more details on the impact of the employees' pension contribution and the huge increase in use of fund balance. Is there no savings for the taxpayer? Bussler stated that more money is not being spent – the fund balance is backfilling the significant State funding cut. Overall Public Works expenditures and revenues are down. We are spending less than last year, even though there is an increase in fund balance and tax levy.

MOTION: Jaske moved, second by Kolb, to tentatively approve the 2012 operating budget for the Department of Public Works. Motion carried 6-0.

Jaske's question regarding the FTE position cuts and related unemployment compensation net costs would be relayed to Norm Cummings for an answer.

Witkowski agreed to correct some minor typographical errors on pages 347, 351, and 360 as requested by the Committee.

MOTION: Jaske moved, second by Draeger, to adjourn at 12:23 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Pauline T. Jaske  
Secretary